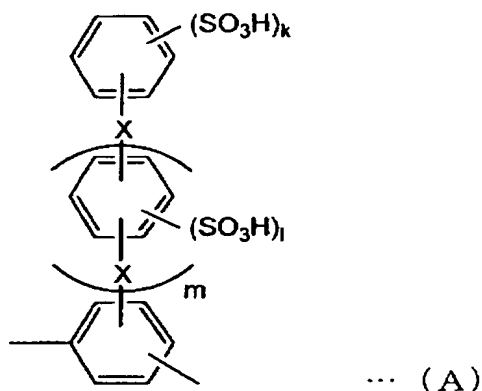


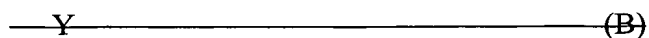
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

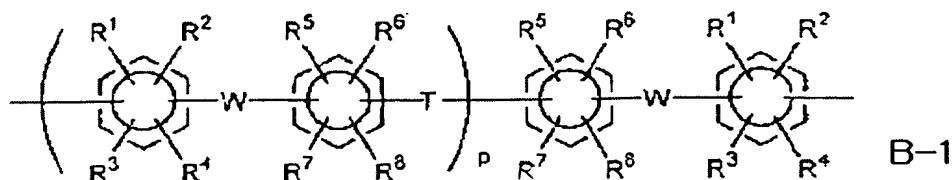
Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A membrane-electrode assembly for a direct methanol type fuel cell comprising a negative electrode and a positive electrode assembled via a proton conductive membrane, the negative electrode being provided with a negative electrode-side separator having a mechanism for feeding a methanol aqueous solution as a fuel, the positive electrode being provided with a positive electrode-side separator having a mechanism for feeding an oxidizing agent gas, and the proton conductive membrane comprising a polymer containing 0.05-99.95 mol% of a repeating constitutional unit represented by the following general formula (A):



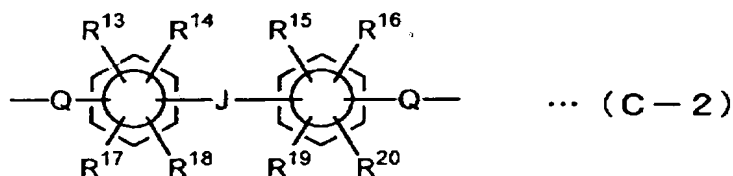
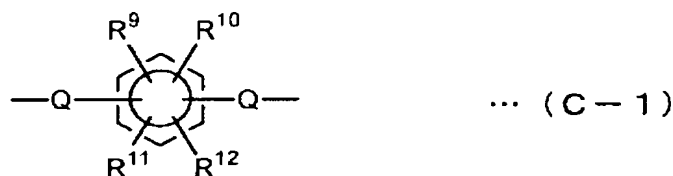
wherein X represents a single bond (—) or an electron withdrawing group or electron donating group; m represents an integer of 0-10; when m is 1-10, Xs may be the same or different; k represents an integer of 0-5; l represents an integer of 0-4; and $(k + l) \geq 1$, and 0.05-99.95 mol% of a repeating constitutional unit represented by the following general formula [(B)] (B-1) or (B-2):



wherein Y represents a hydrophobic divalent flexural group

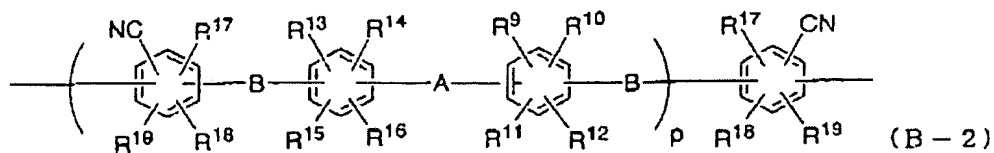


wherein R^1 to R^8 may be the same or different and each represents at least one atom or group selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, an alkyl group, a fluorine-substituted alkyl group, an allyl group, an aryl group, and a cyano group; W represents a divalent electron withdrawing group; T represents at least one group selected from divalent groups represented by the following general formula (C-1) or (C-2):



wherein R^9 to R^{20} may be the same or different and each represents at least one atom or group selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, an alkyl group, a fluorine-substituted alkyl group, an allyl group, an aryl group, and a cyano group; Q represents a divalent electron donating group; and J represents at least one atom or group selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, a fluorine-containing alkylene group, an aryl-substituted alkylene group, an alkenylene group, an alkynylene group, an arylene group, a fluorenylidene group, -O-, -S-, -CO-, -CONH-, -COO-, -SO-, and -SO₂-; and

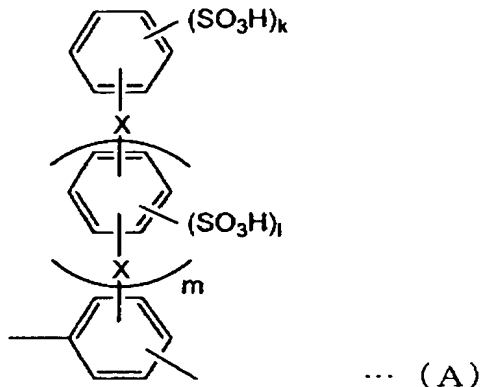
p represents an integer of 1 to 80;



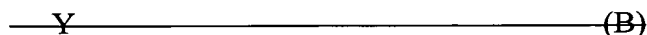
wherein R⁹ to R¹⁹ may be the same or different and each represents at least one atom or group selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, an alkyl group, a fluorine-substituted alkyl group, an allyl group, an aryl group, and a cyano group; A represents a single bond or a divalent electron withdrawing group; B represents a divalent donating group; and p represents an integer of 1 to 80.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

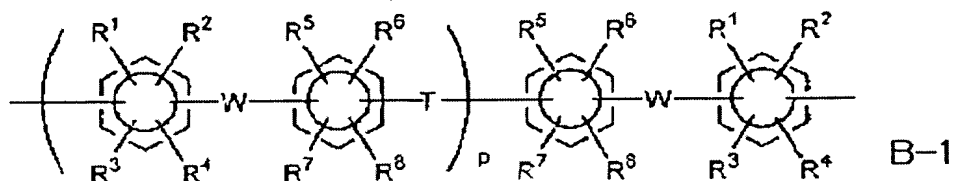
Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A proton conductive membrane for a direct methanol type fuel cell, comprising a polymer containing 0.05-99.95 mol% of a repeating constitutional unit represented by the following general formula (A):



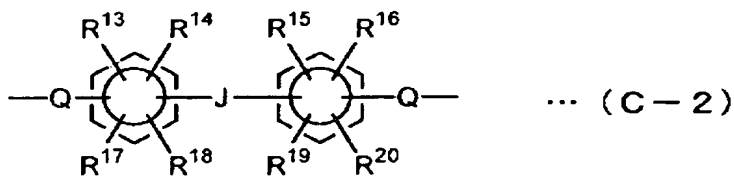
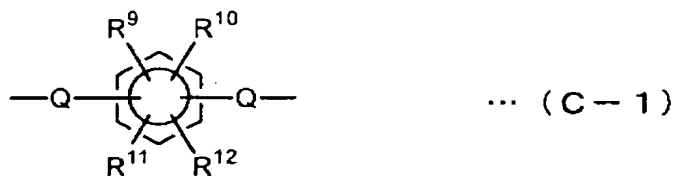
wherein X represents a single bond (—) or an electron withdrawing group or electron donating group; \underline{m} represents an integer of 0-10; when \underline{m} is 1-10, Xs may be the same or different; \underline{k} represents an integer of 0-5; \underline{l} represents an integer of 0-4; and $(k + l) \geq 1$, and 0.05-99.95 mol% of a repeating constitutional unit represented by the following general formula [(B)] (B-1) or (B-2):



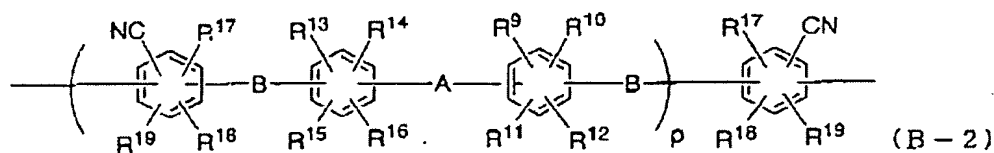
wherein Y represents a hydrophobic divalent flexural group



wherein R^1 to R^8 may be the same or different and each represents at least one atom or group selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, an alkyl group, a fluorine-substituted alkyl group, an allyl group, an aryl group, and a cyano group; W represents a divalent electron withdrawing group; T represents at least one group selected from divalent groups represented by the following general formula (C-1) or (C-2):



wherein R⁹ to R²⁰ may be the same or different and each represents at least one atom or group selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, an alkyl group, a fluorine-substituted alkyl group, an allyl group, an aryl group, and a cyano group; Q represents a divalent electron donating group; and J represents at least one atom or group selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, a fluorine-containing alkylene group, an aryl-substituted alkylene group, an alkenylene group, an alkynylene group, an arylene group, a fluorenylidene group, -O-, -S-, -CO-, -CONH-, -COO-, -SO-, and -SO₂-; and
p represents an integer of 1 to 80;



wherein R⁹ to R¹⁹ may be the same or different and each represents at least one atom or group selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, an alkyl group, a fluorine-substituted alkyl group, an allyl group, an aryl group, and a cyano group; A represents a single bond or a divalent electron withdrawing group; B represents a divalent donating group; and p represents an integer of 1 to 80.

Claim 4 (New): The membrane-electrode assembly according to Claim 1, wherein p represents an integer from 10 to 80.

Claim 5 (New): The proton conductive membrane according to Claim 3, wherein p represents an integer from 10 to 80.